

Application No. 10/636,014
Response dated: December 22, 2005
Reply to Office action of September 22, 2005

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listing, of claims in the application.

Listing of Claims:

1. (Currently Amended) Device for protecting a container having a cylindrical side wall and rounded ends forming a dome, the device comprising:
a shell made of a puncture-resistant material, shaped to envelope at least the entirety of the dome of the container, delimiting a space between an interior face of the shell and an exterior face of the wall of the container; and
a compressible element capable of deadening a knock or impact, disposed in the space, wherein the shell is made of a synthetic resin.
2. (Cancelled)
3. (Previously Presented) Device according to claim 1, wherein the compressible element comprises an expanded synthetic material selected from the group consisting of polystyrene, a polyurethane and polyethylene foam.
4. (Previously Presented) Device according to claim 1, wherein the device is shaped to cover not only the entirety of the dome of the container but also a portion of the side wall of the container that is adjacent to a base of the dome.
5. (Previously Presented) Device according to claim 1, wherein the shell has, at an end corresponding to the side wall of the container, a first wall roughly parallel to an axis of the container and, at an end corresponding to a top of the dome of the container, a second wall perpendicular to the axis, the first and second walls meeting in the form of a rounded zone.
6. (Currently Amended) Device according to claim 1, wherein the container comprises a connection piece situated at a top of the dome, the device further comprising an

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annular projection, having a height such that the annular projection extends beyond a free end of the connecting piece when the device is placed on the dome.

7. (Previously Presented) Device according to claim 1, wherein the device is mounted removably on the container.

8. (Previously Presented) Device according to claim 6, wherein the connecting piece is threaded at the free end, and the device is shaped to surround the connecting piece in such a way that an exterior face of the shell is set back from the threaded free end of the connecting piece, the device further comprising a tapped ring which can be screwed onto the connecting piece and bear against the shell in order to mount the device on the dome.

9. (Currently Amended) Container comprising:
a tank including a cylindrical side wall and rounded ends forming a dome; and
a device including a shell made of a puncture-resistant material shaped to envelope at least the entirety of the dome delimiting a space between an interior face of the shell and an exterior face of the wall of the container, the device further including a compressible element disposed in the space capable of deadening a knock or impact,
wherein the shell is made of a synthetic resin.

10. (Cancelled)

11. (Previously Presented) Container according to claim 9, wherein the compressible element comprises an expanded synthetic material selected from the group consisting of polystyrene, polyurethane and polyethylene foam.

12. (Previously Presented) Container according to claim 9, wherein the shell is shaped to cover not only the entirety of the dome but also a portion of the side wall that is adjacent to a base of the dome.

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13. (Previously Presented) Container according to claim 9, wherein the shell has, at an end corresponding to the side wall of the tank, a first wall roughly parallel to an axis of the tank and, at an end corresponding to a top of the dome of the tank, a second wall perpendicular to the axis, the first and second walls meeting in the form of a rounded zone.

14. (Previously Presented) Container according to claim 9, wherein the tank further comprises a connecting piece situated at a top of the dome and the device further comprises an annular projection having a height such that the annular projection extends beyond a free end of the connecting piece.

15. (Previously Presented) Container according to claim 14, wherein the device is mounted removably on the tank.

16. (Previously Presented) Container according to claim 14, wherein the connecting piece is threaded at the free end, and the device is shaped to surround the connecting piece in such a way that an exterior face of the shell is set back from the threaded free end of the connecting piece, the device further comprising a tapped ring which can be screwed onto the connecting piece and bear against the shell in order to allow mounting of the device on the dome.

17. (Currently Amended) Container according to claim ~~9~~¹⁰, wherein the synthetic resin is a thermoplastic resin selected from the group consisting of acrylonitrile-butadiene-styrene and polycarbonate.

18. (Currently Amended) ~~Container~~Device according to claim ~~9~~², wherein the synthetic resin is a thermoplastic resin.

19. (Previously Presented) Container according to claim 18, wherein the thermoplastic resin is selected from the group consisting of acrylonitrile-butadiene-styrene resin and polycarbonate resin.

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20. (Previously Presented) Container according to claim 9, wherein the container is composed of a composite material intended to contain a fluid under pressure.